

From: Lisa Ormiston
Sent: Friday, January 20, 2017 11:19 AM
To: Derksen, Nick
Subject: Re: Meeting Request

Nick,

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Tuesday, Feb 7

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Tuesday, February 21

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On Fri, Jan 20, 2017 at 2:13 PM Roger Beckett <rbeckett@ashbrook.org> wrote:

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From: Nick.Derksen@ohiohouse.gov <Nick.Derksen@ohiohouse.gov>

Date: Fri, Jan 20, 2017 at 1:09 PM

Subject: Meeting Request

To: rbeckett@ashbrook.org <rbeckett@ashbrook.org>, wwcisenberg@ohiobar.org <wwcisenberg@ohiobar.org>, Bradley.Ingraham@education.ohio.gov <Bradley.Ingraham@education.ohio.gov>

Cc: Bob.Cupp@ohiohouse.gov <Bob.Cupp@ohiohouse.gov>, Bob Cupp (cuppb3@wcoil.com) <cuppb3@wcoil.com>, Dorothy.Hildabrand@ohiohouse.gov <Dorothy.Hildabrand@ohiohouse.gov>

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Look forward to hearing from you.

Best,

Nick Derksen

Nicholas J. Derksen

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Ohio House of Representatives | 77 S. High Street, 14th Floor, Columbus, Ohio 43215

Office: [614.466.2361](tel:614.466.2361) | Mobile: [937.602.2174](tel:937.602.2174) | Nick.Derksen@ohiohouse.gov

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Sent: Friday, January 20, 2017 2:19 PM
To: Derksen, Nick <Nick.Derksen@ohiohouse.gov>
Subject: Re: Meeting Request

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Date: Fri, Jan 20, 2017 at 1:09 PM

Subject: Meeting Request

To: rbeckett@ashbrook.org <rbeckett@ashbrook.org>, [wwaisenberg@ohiobar.org](mailto:wweisenberg@ohiobar.org) <[wwaisenberg@ohiobar.org](mailto:wweisenberg@ohiobar.org)>, Bradley.Ingraham@education.ohio.gov <Bradley.Ingraham@education.ohio.gov>

Cc: Bob.Cupp@ohiohouse.gov <Bob.Cupp@ohiohouse.gov>, Bob Cupp (cuppb3@wcoil.com) <cuppb3@wcoil.com>, Dorothy.Hildabrand@ohiohouse.gov <Dorothy.Hildabrand@ohiohouse.gov>

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Lisa M. Ormiston

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www.Ashbrook.org

From: Lisa Ormiston
Sent: Tuesday, February 28, 2017 5:43 AM
To: Derksen, Nick
Subject: Re: Meeting Request

Great, thanks!

On Tue, Feb 28, 2017 at 8:40 AM Nick.Derksen@ohiohouse.gov
<Nick.Derksen@ohiohouse.gov> wrote:

Good morning Lisa,

Yes, the meeting at 3:30 is still on!

Best,

Nick Derksen

On Feb 28, 2017, at 8:16 AM, Lisa Ormiston <lormiston@ashbrook.org> wrote:

Nick,

I wanted to confirm the meeting at 3:30pm today with Representative
Cupp.

Thank you!

On Fri, Jan 20, 2017 at 4:07 PM Nick.Derksen@ohiohouse.gov
<Nick.Derksen@ohiohouse.gov> wrote:

I could see that!

Nick

614-466-2361

Nick.Derksen@ohiohouse.gov

From: Lisa Ormiston [mailto:lormiston@ashbrook.org]

Sent: Friday, January 20, 2017 4:07 PM

To: Derksen, Nick <Nick.Derksen@ohiohouse.gov>

Subject: Re: Meeting Request

No problem, he gets that quite a bit.

On Fri, Jan 20, 2017 at 4:06 PM Nick.Derksen@ohiohouse.gov
<Nick.Derksen@ohiohouse.gov> wrote:

Lisa,

Great! My mistake!

Best,

Nick

614-466-2361

Nick.Derksen@ohiohouse.gov

From: Lisa Ormiston [mailto:lormiston@ashbrook.org]
Sent: Friday, January 20, 2017 4:06 PM

To: Derksen, Nick <Nick.Derksen@ohiohouse.gov>
Subject: Re: Meeting Request

Nick,

That should be fine.

P.S. He's not a Dr. :)

On Fri, Jan 20, 2017 at 4:04 PM Nick.Derksen@ohiohouse.gov
<Nick.Derksen@ohiohouse.gov> wrote:

Lisa,

Would late afternoon, say 3:30pm work for Dr. Beckett?

Just let me know!

Thanks!

Nick

614-466-2361

Nick.Derksen@ohiohouse.gov

From: Lisa Ormiston [mailto:lormiston@ashbrook.org]

Sent: Friday, January 20, 2017 3:37 PM

To: Derksen, Nick <Nick.Derksen@ohiohouse.gov>

Subject: Re: Meeting Request

28th could work.

On Fri, Jan 20, 2017 at 3:36 PM Nick.Derksen@ohiohouse.gov
<Nick.Derksen@ohiohouse.gov> wrote:

Lisa,

No worries. What about February 27th or 28th?

Best,

Nick

614-466-2361

Nick.Derksen@ohiohouse.gov

From: Lisa Ormiston [mailto:lormiston@ashbrook.org]

Sent: Friday, January 20, 2017 3:35 PM

To: Derksen, Nick <Nick.Derksen@ohiohouse.gov>

Subject: Re: Meeting Request

Unfortunately he will be out of town both of those days. Sorry!

On Fri, Jan 20, 2017 at 3:33 PM Nick.Derksen@ohiohouse.gov
<Nick.Derksen@ohiohouse.gov> wrote:

Lisa,

Could we look at February 23 or 24?

Just let me know!

Thanks!

Nick

614-466-2361

Nick.Derksen@ohiohouse.gov

From: Lisa Ormiston [mailto:lormiston@ashbrook.org]

Sent: Friday, January 20, 2017 2:19 PM

To: Derksen, Nick <Nick.Derksen@ohiohouse.gov>

Subject: Re: Meeting Request

Nick,

Roger Beckett is available during the following days:

Tuesday, Feb 7

Thursday, Feb 9 (he will be in Columbus for the OCMC meetings so depending on the schedule, he could possibly meet that day)

Friday, February 17 (morning meeting)

Tuesday, February 21

If none of those dates work, let me know and I can dig deeper.

Thank you!

On Fri, Jan 20, 2017 at 2:13 PM Roger Beckett
<rbeckett@ashbrook.org> wrote:

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Nick.Derksen@ohiohouse.gov
<Nick.Derksen@ohiohouse.gov>
Date: Fri, Jan 20, 2017 at 1:09 PM
Subject: Meeting Request
To: rbeckett@ashbrook.org <rbeckett@ashbrook.org>
[wwaisenberg@ohiobar.org](mailto:wweisenberg@ohiobar.org) <[wwaisenberg@ohiobar.org](mailto:wweisenberg@ohiobar.org)>, Bradley.Ingraham@education.ohio.gov
<Bradley.Ingraham@education.ohio.gov>
Cc: Bob.Cupp@ohiohouse.gov <Bob.Cupp@ohiohouse.gov>, [Bob Cupp \(cuppb3@wcoil.com\)](mailto:Bob.Cupp@wcoil.com) <cuppb3@wcoil.com>, Dorothy.Hildabrand@ohiohouse.gov
<Dorothy.Hildabrand@ohiohouse.gov>

Good afternoon,

As Speaker Rosenberger's Education Policy Advisor, Rep. Cupp has asked me to reach out to each of you to have a discussion on Civics education. More specifically, to discuss the current state of civics education and what could be done to improve it.

Please let me know of some dates and times in February that may work to meet.

Look forward to hearing from you.

Best,

Nick Derksen

Nicholas J. Derksen

Majority Policy Advisor | Speaker Clifford A. Rosenberger

Ohio House of Representatives | 77 S. High Street, 14th Floor, Columbus,
Ohio 43215

Office: 614.466.2361 | Mobile: 937.602.2174 |
Nick.Derksen@ohiohouse.gov

Roger Beckett

Executive Director

Ashbrook Center

Ashland University

401 College Avenue

Ashland, Ohio 44805

(419) 289-5413

rbeckett@ashbrook.org

www.ashbrook.org

www.TeachingAmericanHistory.org

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From: Rossman, Brent
Sent: Friday, September 29, 2017 7:43 AM
To: House_All
Subject: Goodbye!
Attachments: IMG_2029.JPG

Good morning everyone,

Since I started in the House, I've had the Ashbrook Center's pocket Constitution and Declaration perched upon my desk. It's a neat little booklet that also contains Lincoln's Second Inaugural, the Gettysburg Address, and excerpts from some of Thomas Jefferson's letters. I've turned to it many times for inspiration, and occasionally, for work purposes. I carried this same pocket constitution while I was in college, when I was just beginning to understand the depth of meaning contained in our Founding documents.

Now, I am excited to carry this same little booklet back to the Ashbrook Center to embark on a new chapter in my career. With it, I carry back a deeper understanding of the legislative process, and great experiences in politics. It still astounds me that we all have had the opportunity to help make law and improve the lives of 11.5 million people. I'm incredibly grateful for the opportunity to serve the people of Ohio. These experiences will all help me with my new mission of cultivating good civics education in our country through the use of primary source documents.

Better yet, I'll also carry with this little booklet memories and friendships that will last a lifetime. I'll miss the House, but I won't be far away. Feel free to stay in touch. My cell is 419-561-0073 and my personal email is brossman4913@gmail.com

Sincerely,

Brent Rossman
Legislative Aide
Representative Wes Goodman
Ohio House of Representatives
District 87

Brent.Rossman@ohiohouse.gov
Office: 614.644.6265
Cell: 419.561.0073



From: Derksen, Nick
Sent: Friday, September 29, 2017 8:26 AM
To: Amy Peirano
Subject: FW: Goodbye!
Attachments: IMG_2029.JPG

Nick
614-466-2361
Nick.Derksen@ohiohouse.gov

From: Rossman, Brent
Sent: Friday, September 29, 2017 10:43 AM
To: House_All <House_All@ohiohouse.gov>
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Brent Rossman

Legislative Aide
Representative Wes Goodman
Ohio House of Representatives
District 87

Brent.Rossman@ohiohouse.gov

Office: 614.644.6265

Cell: 419.561.0073



From: Amy Peirano
Sent: Friday, September 29, 2017 8:31 AM
To: Derksen, Nick
Subject: RE: Goodbye!

He actually copied me on his goodbye. ☺

Amy A. Peirano
614-466-3715
apeirano@lsc.ohio.gov
Staff Administrator
Resolution Drafting
Legislative Service Commission

From: Derksen, Nick
Sent: Friday, September 29, 2017 11:26 AM
To: Amy Peirano
Subject: FW: Goodbye!

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Nick.Derksen@ohiohouse.gov

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Sincerely,

Brent Rossman

Legislative Aide
Representative Wes Goodman
Ohio House of Representatives
District 87

Brent.Rossman@ohiohouse.gov

Office: 614.644.6265

Cell: 419.561.0073

From: Derksen, Nick
Sent: Friday, September 29, 2017 8:32 AM
To: Amy Peirano
Subject: RE: Goodbye!

Awwww. ☺

Nick
614-466-2361
Nick.Derksen@ohiohouse.gov

From: Amy Peirano
Sent: Friday, September 29, 2017 11:31 AM
To: Derksen, Nick <Nick.Derksen@ohiohouse.gov>
Subject: RE: Goodbye!

He actually copied me on his goodbye. ☺

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614-466-3715
apeirano@lsc.ohio.gov
Staff Administrator
Resolution Drafting
Legislative Service Commission

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Legislative Aide
Representative Wes Goodman
Ohio House of Representatives
District 87

Brent.Rossman@ohiohouse.gov
Office: 614.644.6265
Cell: 419.561.0073

From: bradley.ingraham@education.ohio.gov
Sent: Wednesday, October 11, 2017 6:26 AM
To: Derksen, Nick
Subject: FW: Social Studies Standards Revision

FYI – I never heard back about a time from Chris, so I had to schedule the Social Studies Standards Revision call with Rodger Beckett. I've invited Chris to join us on the call. Hopefully, this time will work for him.

From: Ingraham, Bradley
Sent: Wednesday, October 11, 2017 9:21 AM
To: 'Chris Long' <chrislong@ohioca.org>
Cc: Colvin, Brittney <Brittney.Colvin@education.ohio.gov>
Subject: RE: Social Studies Standards Revision

Hi Chris,

The conference call will be Thursday 10/12/17 at 1:30 PM. On the call will be:

- 1) Dr. Stephanie Siddens, Senior Executive Director for the Center for Curriculum and Assessment
- 2) Brian Roget, Interim-Director for the Office of Curriculum and Assessment,
- 3) myself
- 4) Rodger Beckett, Executive Director of the Ashbrook Center at Ashland University.

The call in number is 614-495-8538. Please let me know if you can be on the call with us.

Thank you.

Brad Ingraham
Legislative Liaison
Ohio Department of Education
Cell - (614)315-7940
Office - (614)387-0541
Bradley.Ingraham@education.ohio.gov

From: Chris Long [mailto:chrislong@ohioca.org]
Sent: Tuesday, October 03, 2017 2:46 PM

To: Ingraham, Bradley <bradley.ingraham@education.ohio.gov>
Subject: RE: Social Studies Standards Revision

Brad, I will check and get back to you later today.

Christopher R. Long
Ohio Christian Alliance
330-887-1922 phone
330-247-9902 fax
www.ohioca.org

From: bradley.ingraham@education.ohio.gov
[<mailto:bradley.ingraham@education.ohio.gov>]
Sent: Wednesday, September 27, 2017 5:02 PM
To: chrislong@ohioca.org
Cc: 'erich.bittner@ohiosenate.gov' <erich.bittner@ohiosenate.gov>;
Brittney.Colvin@education.ohio.gov
Subject: RE: Social Studies Standards Revision

Mr. Long,

It was nice meeting you last week at the State Board of Education.

What day works best for you to have a conference call or meet at the Department of Education to discuss the draft social studies standards? We should meet next week at the latest so the department has enough time to address your questions or concerns.

Thank you very much for your interest in this topic.

Respectfully,

Brad Ingraham
Legislative Liaison
Ohio Department of Education
Cell - (614)315-7940
Office - (614)387-0541
Bradley.Ingraham@education.ohio.gov

From: Ingraham, Bradley

Sent: Friday, September 15, 2017 2:00 PM

To: chrislong@ohioca.org; rbeckett@ashbrook.org

Cc: Roget, Brian <brian.roget@education.ohio.gov>; Tate, Steven <steve.tate@education.ohio.gov>; McKean, Linda <Linda.McKean@education.ohio.gov>; Groce, Dwight <Dwight.Groce@education.ohio.gov>; Siddens, Stephanie <stephanie.siddens@education.ohio.gov>; Colvin, Brittney <Brittney.Colvin@education.ohio.gov>

Subject: RE: Social Studies Standards Revision

Dear Mr. Long and Mr. Beckett,

Thank you for your interest in the social studies standards revision process. As a Legislative Liaison for the Department of Education, I have been asked by members of the General Assembly to provide you with the attachments:

- 1) The list of members on the Advisory Committee for Social Studies Standards Revision,
- 2) The list of the Social Studies High School working group member,
- 3) June 2017 draft standards for high school American history*
- 4) June 2017 draft standards for high school American government
- 5) The list of public comments on the June 2017 draft standards for American history and American government, included as separate tabs in one excel document.

*Based on the feedback from the public comment period the advisory committee and working groups have revised the historic document standard in American History (page 2) to read as follows:

"The historical documents, the Declaration of Independence, Northwest Ordinance, US Constitution including the Bill of Rights, elaborate on the rights of the people and the role of the citizens in building the foundations of the American nation."

This revision process has not concluded, and we remain committed to producing the best standards for Ohio's students and teachers. I was asked to facilitate a meeting or conference call with department staff to hear your questions, comments, and concerns on these draft standards, including the revised American history standard. We would be happy to have the meeting as a conference call or at the Department of Education building at 25 S. Front St. in Columbus on September 29th or a date that better fits your schedules.

Thank you again.

Brad Ingraham
Legislative Liaison
Ohio Department of Education
Cell - (614)315-7940

Office - (614)387-0541
Bradley.Ingraham@education.ohio.gov

From: Groce, Dwight
Sent: Tuesday, September 05, 2017 7:50 AM
To: chrislong@ohioca.org; rbeckett@ashbrook.org
Cc: Ingraham, Bradley <bradley.ingraham@education.ohio.gov>; Roget, Brian <brian.roget@education.ohio.gov>; Tate, Steven <steve.tate@education.ohio.gov>; McKean, Linda <Linda.McKean@education.ohio.gov>
Subject: Social Studies Standards Revision

Dear Mr. Long and Mr. Beckett:

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We will forward to you the names of our Advisory Committee and high school working group, the proposed changes and the comments from the summer survey. Then, we will set up a phone conversation to hear your questions and ideas.

We look forward to working with you.

Sincerely,

Dwight C. Groce
Social Studies Consultant

Ohio Department of Education
Office of Curriculum and Assessment
25 South Front Street
Columbus, Ohio 43215-4183
(614) 387-3200
Toll-free (877-644-6338
Fax (614)387-0421
Dwight.groce@education.ohio.gov



From:
Sent: Wednesday, October 11, 2017 6:42 AM
To: bradley.ingraham@education.ohio.gov
Subject: RE: Social Studies Standards Revision

Nick
614-466-2361
Nick.Derksen@ohiohouse.gov

From: bradley.ingraham@education.ohio.gov
[mailto:bradley.ingraham@education.ohio.gov]
Sent: Wednesday, October 11, 2017 9:26 AM
To: Derksen, Nick <Nick.Derksen@ohiohouse.gov>
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Cc: Roget, Brian <brian.roget@education.ohio.gov>; Tate, Steven <steve.tate@education.ohio.gov>; McKean, Linda <Linda.McKean@education.ohio.gov>; Groce, Dwight <Dwight.Groce@education.ohio.gov>; Siddens, Stephanie <stephanie.siddens@education.ohio.gov>; Colvin, Brittney <Brittney.Colvin@education.ohio.gov>
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Fax (614) 387-0421
Dwight.groce@education.ohio.gov



From: bradley.ingraham@education.ohio.gov
Sent: Thursday, October 12, 2017 9:57 AM
To: Derksen, Nick; Brenner, Andrew
Subject: FW: Revised draft social studies standards

FYI

From: Roger Beckett [mailto:rbeckett@ashbrook.org]
Sent: Thursday, October 12, 2017 12:35 PM
To: Ingraham, Bradley <bradley.ingraham@education.ohio.gov>; Lisa Ormiston <lormiston@ashbrook.org>
Cc: Siddens, Stephanie <stephanie.siddens@education.ohio.gov>; Roget, Brian <brian.roget@education.ohio.gov>
Subject: Re: Revised draft social studies standards

Hi Brad,

Thanks for sending along the latest drafts. As I understand them, there are a couple issues at play here: one about the standards themselves and one about testing, or graduation requirements. Since our conversation today is about the proposed standards revisions, let me simply explain my views on them.

As one of the organizations that promoted the original passage of the founding documents act, I have closely reviewed the proposed standards revisions as well as the comments received about them. The proposed standards revisions are fully in line with the founding documents act and do nothing to weaken Ohio's focus on our founding documents. I can go further and say that the proposed revisions strengthen the focus on our founding documents by not treating them simply as historical events and instead emphasizing how the documents remain relevant to Americans and Ohioans today.

Feel free to share that sentiment, which I am happy to offer on the record.

The testing question is a different one, and from my understanding of recent events, it is still an unfolding one. I was disappointed to see the US Department of Education scale back on their NAEP history and government testing in their most recent round of testing. This is just another sign of how history and government are slowly being pushed out of the curriculum in American schools. I hope Ohio will continue to stand against this trend, continuing to stand up for the idea that self-government in America requires some knowledge about our history, of how our government works, and why it works that way. Testing this can be done in many ways and should somehow be folded into whatever ongoing changes are made to graduation requirements. I have

not engaged in the recent conversations about these issues, and I do not know where things stand now, but my sense is that this is the greater area of concern. If I can be helpful in any way with that conversation, don't hesitate to let me know.

If this email answers the questions we needed to discuss on the call, feel free to let me know and we can all save ourselves the time. Though I am happy to talk about this or any related issue anytime.

Best,
Roger

On Thu, Oct 12, 2017 at 11:43 AM bradley.ingraham@education.ohio.gov
<bradley.ingraham@education.ohio.gov> wrote:

Hi Roger,

We are looking forward to our conversation about the draft social studies standards. The Standards Revision Advisory Committee has listened and responded to suggestions to clarify and improve the standards, so I wanted to send you the latest drafts (attached). These standards can also be found online:
<ftp://ftp.ode.state.oh.us/StateBoardBooks/October%20-%202017/Achievement%20and%20Graduation%20Requirements/October%202017%20Achievement%20and%20Graduation%20Requirements%20Committee.pdf> The Social Studies standards start on page 65.

To focus our conversation, there have been questions and concerns about the wording of the founding documents standards in high school American History. You can find these revisions on page 30. By connecting the founding documents to future events in American history, we believe these changes will improve the teaching of the documents and avoid a tendency to focus on rote memorization. However, we are very interested in your thoughts on these revisions, so I appreciate your willingness to discuss the standards today.

Respectfully,

Brad Ingraham

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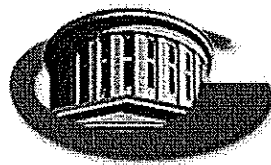
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From: Gongwer News Service
Sent: Friday, July 15, 2016 2:44 PM
To: Derksen, Nick
Subject: Ohio Report, Friday, July 15, 2016
Attachments: Jul15.htm; 160715dayplan.htm



GONGWER Ohio
The Record of Capitol Square Since 1906

Ohio Report for Friday, July 15, 2016

Timeline For Energy Freeze Action Unclear, Says Senate No. 2

ECOT Debate Becomes Campaign Fodder In State Senate Race

RNC Update: Trump Confirms Pence As VP Pick; 'Never Trump' Efforts Fail...

Campus Culture Survey Results To Inform Continued Sexual Violence Prevention, Response Efforts

Becker Defends Right-To-Work Bill For Public Sector, Acknowledges Its Passage Is A Longshot

Education Notes: ECOT Defends Decision To Withhold Log-In Data; Antioch Receives Accreditation; Lawmaker Urges Standards Feedback

Court Briefs: Dems File Brief In = 2Golden Week' Case; 1851 Center Seeks To Stop Eminent Domain For Pipeline; Judicial College Employee Honored

Agency Briefs: AG's Office Doles Out Funding To Rape Crisis Centers; BWC; SOS; ODNr; PUCO; Senate

From Congress: Brown, Portman Applaud U.S. Attorney Confirmation; Kaptur Applauds Funding Awards; Gibbs; Ryan

Gongwer's Ohio Convention Coverage

Attorney General's Opinion

Supplemental Agency Calendar

Supplemental Event Planner

Calendars

Day Planner

Event Planner

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Volume #85, Report #136 -- Friday, July 15, 2016

Timeline For Energy Freeze Action Unclear, Says Senate No. 2

A Senate leader said lawmakers may not act on the soon-to-end freeze on renewable energy and energy efficiency standards until sometime next year.

Sen. Larry Obhof (R-Medina), the Senate's president pro tem and likely next chamber leader, said in an interview this week he advocates for an "all the above approach" to rethinking the mandates that were frozen in 2014 and are set to kick back in at the end of this year without legislative action.

But such an undertaking might not be easier considering the limited number of session days scheduled this fall, he said. The Senate is scheduled to return in late September with at most 21 days set for work in committees, and much fewer days anticipated for full sessions. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, June 1, 2016) The House, meanwhile, is set to reconvene after the November election with at most eight full session days.

"I think that's a pretty big issue and if there's not that many session days it remains to be seen whether that'll be tackled in that amount of time," Sen. Obhof said. "I definitely think moving forward whether it's at the end of this year or at the beginning of the next General Assembly we need to come up with a comprehensive and consistent policy on energy."

By not acting by Dec. 31, the freeze would thaw, allowing the standards to kick back into effect, which Republicans argue could harm Ohio considering lingering uncertainty over the federal Clean Power Plan and other unknowns. Proponents of the standards say any effort to extend the freeze or lower the standards would take the state backward.

There are currently three bills pending in either chamber with different approaches. A bill from Sen. Bill Seitz (SB 320) would extend the freeze until 2019, while a bill from Rep. Ron Amstutz (HB 554) would extend the freeze indefinitely. A third bill (SB 325), from Sen. Kris Jordan, would abolish the mandates completely. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, May 11, 2016)

If none of those bills pass by the end of the 131st General Assembly, the legislative slate will be wiped clean and a new bill would need to be authored to tackle the issue next year.

Sen. Obhof said that even if lawmakers act on the freeze, he believes more comprehensive action would be needed in the next General Assembly.

"I think there will be some kind of action in the next 12 to 18 months regardless of whether the freeze is extended or not," Sen. Obhof said. "I don't know if there is any

science supporting the current numbers and mandates in law. I think we need to have a fact-based approach, one that has room for all the natural resources available."

The pending end of the freeze is one of the reasons cited by Sen. Bill Seitz (R-Cincinnati) as a reason for more Republican scrutiny of Gov. John Kasich's recent appointee to the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio.

Democratic attorney Howard Petricoff on Tuesday faced his first hearing before the Sen. Seitz's Senate Public Utilities Committee. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, July 12, 2016)

"I believe we're at a unique crossroads caused by a fairly simultaneous convergence of numerous complex issues," Sen. Seitz said. "I think we all need to make an effort to understand each other on these issues and of course no one is more central to that vortex than the five members of the PUCO."

Other uncertainties he cited include ongoing rehearings of proposed Power Purchase Agreements from AEP and FirstEnergy, the departure of former PUCO Chairman Andre Porter, and the ongoing federal court case over the legality of the Clean Power Plan.

ECOT Debate Becomes Campaign Fodder In State Senate Race

In one of the first significant rhetorical volleys in this legislative campaign cycle, the rising controversy over funding and student attendance at the state's largest online charter school is a point of contention in the race for the open 16th Senate District.

Democrat Cathy Johnson, a teacher looking to upset favored Rep. Stephanie Kunze (R-Hilliard) in the right-leaning western Franklin County seat, fired the initial salvo this week in criticizing the Republican over issues related to the Electronic Classroom of Tomorrow.

Her criticisms were dismissed by Sen. Dave Burke (R-Marysville), chairman of the Republican Senate Campaign Committee, who described the Democrat's statements as "misguided to say the least" and defended the Republican's positions on and support for education.

The race for the seat being vacated by Sen. Jim Hughes (R-Columbus) is one of only a handful in the Senate this year that's expected to be even marginally competitive thanks to the GOP-led reapportionment process. It has trended Republican for several years, but Democrats are hoping that with a polarizing candidate atop the GOP ticket they can make hay in legislative races this fall.

ECOT is currently locked in a legal battle with the Ohio Department of Education over attendance records, with a looming audit having the potential to strip millions of funding from the online charter founded by Bill Lager. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, July 11, 2016)

Ms. Johnson in a campaign release "announced her support" for ODE's attempts to examine ECOT's records and said Rep. Kunze voted "against measures to hold e-

schools accountable in 2015" and "has accepted \$33,000 from ECOT's founder, Bill Lager, over the past four years."

"As a mother, teacher and taxpayer, I am astonished by the deceptive tactics of this taxpayer-funded e-school," Ms. Johnson said. "It's disappointing that Representative Kunze refused to stand up for Ohio's students and taxpayers by holding ECOT accountable when she had the chance."

The Democrat said Ms. Kunze "voted with Republicans to block amendments that would have required annual audits for charter school operators, clarified that records of all charter school operators are public records and given the public more access to information on charter school board members and meeting times."

"It's disappointing that Representative Kunze refused to stand up for Ohio's students and taxpayers by holding ECOT accountable when she had the chance," Ms. Johnson added. "Instead, she chose to accept donations from ECOT's founder. We need a State Senator who is dedicated to fighting for students and families. Anyone can say yes to special interests with deep pockets."

Sen. Burke questioned the focus of Ms. Johnson's assertions, saying Rep. Kunze has a record that belies such criticisms.

"Stephanie Kunze has a record of supporting both public education and parent choice," he said. "I would also say that both traditional public education and charter schools and ECOT schools, etc. are all in need of improvement beyond a shadow of a doubt and that is what we're working on."

To that end, Sen. Burke said, Ms. Kunze was a cosponsor of HB 2, which he described as "the largest reform bill dealing with non-traditional public schools." As the legislature continues to look for improvements to all kinds of public schools, he added, "she is obviously supportive of that."

"I would say, unlike Ms. Johnson's statement, that rather than have a singular source of education, that Stephanie believes parents should have a choice. The competition within that market drives improvement, so in order for public schools to get better, parents should have a choice."

The Republican said some of the tabled budget amendments the Democrat is apparently referring to "would have basically eliminated parent choice."

Sen. Burke also pushed back on the suggestion of a quid pro quo involving campaign donations.

"I imagine Stephanie Kunze, like me, accepts money from a lot of people," he said. "I've taken money from Bill Lager. I also was a direct cosponsor of (Sen. Peggy Lehner's) bill to reform ECOT and charter schools from day one."

"I guess the inverse question there would be, 'If the (Ohio Education Association) paid money to Stephanie Kunze, do you think she'd change?' I'm guessing probably not."

The debate over ECOT escalated considerably in recent weeks as ODE moved forward with plans to review the schools attendance records. In the latest twist, the *Columbus Dispatch* reported Thursday that ECOT is refusing to release some of the requested data.

As election season progresses, Democrats have increasingly pointed to the majority GOP's ties to ECOT, which has been at the forefront of the Republican-led expansion of the charter industry in the state.

Carrying forward the support of his predecessor, Speaker Cliff Rosenberger (R-Clarksville) spoke at this year's ECOT graduation ceremony, which in the past has been attended by other prominent Republican officeholders.

The Ohio Democratic Party recently called for a moratorium on state funding to ECOT and a larger investigation into the state's charter school system, stating: "Last year as the Ohio General Assembly considered a bill to reform charter schools, Lager gave nearly \$150,000 to 21 Ohio Republican legislators over the course of two months."

RNC Update: Trump Confirms Pence As VP Pick; 'Never Trump' Efforts Fail...

Donald Trump on Friday became the first presumptive nominee to announce his vice presidential pick via Twitter.

As expected, Mr. Trump confirmed he has tabbed Indiana Gov. Mike Pence as his running mate in a tweet shortly before 11 a.m.

Mr. Trump had previously announced he was postponing the New York City press conference where he was expected to make the announcement following a mass killing in Nice, France.

But Gov. Pence faced a noon deadline Friday by which to withdraw from his gubernatorial reelection bid in order for the Indiana Republican Party to name a replacement candidate, meaning the news would have been confirmed then even without an announcement from the Trump campaign.

The formal news conference will now take place at 11 a.m. Saturday in New Jersey.

Word broke Thursday that the first term Indiana governor and former congressman was to be Mr. Trump's No. 2.

Gov. Pence has been engaged in a gubernatorial rematch with Democrat John Gregg - a race that's taken on a new element of competitiveness following Republican discontent over Mr. Pence's handling of last year's so-called Religious Freedom Restoration Act.

Mr. Pence, well thought of in religious conservative circles, is seen as an attempt by Mr. Trump to appeal to that voter bloc and to create inroads with Congress, where Gov. Pence served from 2001-2013.

The campaign of DNC presumptive nominee Hillary Clinton immediately blasted the pick in a statement, calling it the "most extreme VP pick in a generation."

Clinton campaign Chairman John Podesta criticized the governor for defunding Planned Parenthood, advocating early on for the Tea Party movement, and signing a religious freedom law that opponents say legalized discrimination against LGBT citizens.

"By picking Mike Pence as his running mate, Donald Trump has doubled down on some of his most disturbing beliefs by choosing an incredibly divisive and unpopular running mate known for supporting discriminatory politics and failed economic policies that favor millionaires and corporations over working families," Mr. Podesta said.

The campaign then promptly organized a media call featuring allied groups criticizing the Republican ticket.

Rules Committee: GOP leaders and Trump loyalists thwarted plans to undermine Mr. Trump's candidacy during a closely watched RNC Rules Committee meeting Thursday.

The morning meeting was delayed several hours while party leaders attempted to negotiate with members of the "Never Trump" movement, but talks soon fell apart. Those members had hoped to change rules to permit delegates to vote their conscience, thereby freeing bound delegates to vote against Mr. Trump on the first ballot.

But as the day wore on it became clear the anti-Trump contingent had too little support for success and lacked the required votes to create a minority report that would have ensured debate on the issue before the full convention next week. Amendment author Kendal Unruh said she would still attempt to earn the required 28 signatures for a minority report.

Following much debate, delegates also shot down a proposed amendment that would have barred lobbyists from being members of the RNC - a change Ohio delegate and lobbyist JoAnn Davidson strongly criticized in remarks before the body.

The committee, which had planned to meet Friday, eventually finished the agenda late Thursday and adjourned. The rules package will be sent to the full convention Monday for consideration.

RNC Chairman Reince Priebus said the meeting "made clear the high level of unity within our Party."